Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SWF-01 /077 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC:FJDEVINE APPROVED BY ARA - MR. DEVINE EB/OT - MR. SCHMIDT H - MR. RICHARDSON (IN DRAFT) ECP - MR. OLSEN (IN DRAFT) ARA/NC/V - MR. SONANDRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ETRD VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REACTION TO TRADE BILL

REF: CARACAS 12466

- 1. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT PEREZ ADVERSE PUBLIC COMMENT ON US TRADE BILL (REFTEL) AND IMMINENCE OF FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION THEREON, THIS SUBJECT MAY COME UP IN YOUR TALK THIS AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SCHACHT.
- 2. MANDATORY EXCLUSION PROVISIONS OF TRADE BILL WITH RESPECT TO GSP REFLECT STRONGLY FELT PUBLIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS. EXECUTIVE BRANCH DOES NOT

BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT THEY CONSTITUTE BEST APPROACH TO PROBLEM AND HAS THEREFORE WORKED TO HAVE THEM STRICKEN OR MADE DISCRETIONARY.

3. AS APPROPRIATE IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH FON MIN SCHACHT, YOU MAY DRAW UPON FOREGOING, ASSURE HIM THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS HAS PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED IN THIS EFFORT BY CALLING ON NUMEROUS SENATORS AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT ALSO TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON ANOTHER PART
OF THE TRADE BILL WHICH HAS IMPORTANT FOREIGN
POLICY IMPLICATIONS.

YOU WILL RECALL, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT I WROTE
TO YOU IN SEPTEMBER TO EXPRESS MY STRONG SUPPORT
FOR TITLE V OF THE TRADE REFORM ACT BECAUSE I
CONSIDER THE PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF A MEANINGFUL SYSTEM OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES IMPORTANT TO
U.S. RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. I AM
GRATIFIED THAT THIS COMMITTEE HAS AGREED TO
ENDORSE THE CONCEPT OF GENERALIZED TARIFF
PREFERENCES. I HAVE, HOWEVER, SERIOUS QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE DECISION OF YOUR COMMITTEE TO EXCLUDE
AUTOMATICALLY CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES FROM THE BENEFITS OF THESE PREFERENCES.

THE CONCERNS WHICH THESE AMENDMENTS REFLECT ARE, I BELIEVE, SHARED BY ALL IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. I AM NOT OPPOSED TO HAVING THESE CONCERNS PUT ON THE RECORD.

HOWEVER, THESE AMENDMENTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM, WOULD RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC DENIAL OF PREFERENCES TO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUCH AUTOMATICITY COULD WORK TO OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISADVANTAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD IT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO EXCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN LAST YEAR'S OIL EMBARGO?

MOREOVER, MANY OF THE COUNTRIES AFFECTED -- INCLUDING THOSE WHO CAN PLAY A ROLE IN HELPING

PREVENT RENEWED CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST -ARE JUST THOSE WITH WHICH WE ARE NOW ACTIVELY
ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS
AND TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO
DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTOMATIC DENIAL OF PREFERENCES TO COUNTRIES EXPROPRIATING U.S. PROPERTY THE CONGRESS RECOGNIZED LAST YEAR THAT INFLEXIBLE SANCTIONS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING THE

INTERESTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OR BUSINESSES ABROAD, AND MODIFIED THE HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE ITS SANCTIONS WHEN REQUIRED FOR OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. THE SAME AUTHORITY SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE TRADE ACT.

THIS COMMITTEE HAS MADE SEVERAL CHANGES IN TITLE V WHICH WE CONSIDER TO BE DISTINCT IMPROVEMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, I BELIEVE THAT TITLE V, AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE, CONTAINS AMPLE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE OR TO DENY GENERALIZED PREFERENCES TO ANY COUNTRY WHENEVER IT IS IN THE OVERALL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO DO SO. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL KEEP CONGRESS FULLY INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THE BASIS FOR ANY DECISIONS ON BENEFICIARY STATUS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE PROBLEMS I HAVE RAISED.

THE TRADE BILL IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES TO COME BEFORE THE CONGRESS IN MANY YEARS. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR HOPES FOR A MORE STABLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORE PROSPEROUS WORLD. THIS CONGRESS IN THE TIME REMAINING TO IT THUS HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SAFER AND MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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